



I would like to start the New Year with a reminder to all motorists about their responsibility when coming upon an emergency or roadside assistance vehicle (tow or other service vehicle) while driving. Each year there are many close calls and sometime tragedies where one of the operators of an emergency vehicle, tow truck driver, utility worker is injured or killed because a motorist does not take proper action when passing in one of these situations.

Wisconsin statute **346.072 Passing stopped emergency or roadside service vehicles** states that: *If an emergency or roadside service vehicle is parked or standing on or within 12 feet of a roadway, the operator of a motor vehicle approaching the emergency or roadside service vehicle shall proceed with due regard for all other traffic and shall do either of the following:*

*(a) Move the motor vehicle into a lane that is not the lane nearest the parked or standing emergency or roadside service vehicle and continue traveling in that lane until safely clear of the emergency or roadside service vehicle. This paragraph applies only if the roadway has at least two lanes for traffic proceeding in the direction of the approaching motor vehicle and if the approaching motor vehicle may change lanes safely and without interfering with any vehicular traffic.*

*(b) Slow the motor vehicle, maintaining a safe speed for traffic conditions and operate the motor vehicle at a reduced speed until completely past the emergency or roadside service vehicle. This paragraph applies only if the roadway has only one lane for traffic proceeding in the direction of the approaching motor vehicle or if the approaching motor vehicle may not change lanes safely and without interfering with any vehicular traffic.*

Please note that according to subsection (a) you must ensure it is safe to move into the other lane on a two lane road before proceeding around the emergency vehicle. Therefore drivers must have their vehicle under control and be able to stop if it is not clear to go around the emergency or service vehicles. The fine for a violation of this statute is \$149 and 3 points.

Let's make sure in 2018 all those who work on our highways keeping them safe and assisting others are able to make it home to their families.

Captain Scott Mittelstadt